

Around this time last year, I was a senior in high school that had already finished the long process of applying to college and was starting to receive letters of acceptance. I was proud to have received large presidential scholarships from several schools. However, with the increasing prices of already expensive college tuitions, I knew I would still have to make a financially sound decision. Besides my love for the UConn Huskies and the campus environment itself, the practical cost of UConn was one of the biggest factors that drew me to attend. As a student who also wants to go to law school one day, I thought it would be important for me to attend a school whose comparatively lower cost would make it possible for me to enroll in law school in the future.

I am not the only UConn student in this position. Many in-state students not only attend UConn because of the incredible academic programs and Division I sports teams. A lot of us have big dreams for the future, such as enrolling in law school, medical school, or earning a graduate degree. We don't want the cost to impede us from reaching these goals. There are so many talented students throughout the country, including those at UConn, who want to do so much more than just earn a single college degree and they deserve the financial ability to do so. It is the responsibility of our state legislators to make sure that hardworking and capable students have every chance to higher education, after all this is why they are elected to office.

When discussing the state budget cuts, I urge you to consider the detrimental effects an increase in tuition could have on UConn students resulting from a \$40 million loss in state funds. Many of the students at UConn will likely want to earn higher degrees after undergraduate school. If the tuition increases largely there will be so many students that once relied on UConn for its academic excellence and affordability deterred from getting a higher education degree. Please keep this in mind as the state budget is implemented.